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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 33068 110446Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /030 W
----------064338 120059Z /75
R 102048Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1574
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
FAA BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE AND THE PROPOSED SST NOISE RULE

REF: PARIS 28183

1. SUMMARY: IN COMMENTS ON PROPOSED SST NOISE RULE GOF INTENDS VIGOROUSLY PROTEST EXEMPTION FOR ONLY SIXTEEN CONCORDES. THIS COMES AS NO SURPRISE. DOMESTIC PRESSURES WOULD COMPEL SUCH PROTEST, EVEN IF CONTINUATION OF PRODUCTION RUN IS, AT BEST, UNLIKELY. GOF MIGHT ALSO FIND IT CONVENIENT TO BE ABLE TO SHIFT PART OF BLAME ON US FOR TERMINATION OF PRODUCTION RUN AS A RESULT "RESTRICTIVE" SST NOISE RULE. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HEAR VIA THE DGAC THAT GOF IS READYING COMMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO FAA RE PROPOSED SST NOISE RULE THAT WILL BE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF LIMITING EXEMPTION FROM FAR 36 STANDARDS UNDER THAT RULE TO ONLY THE FIRST SIXTEEN CONCORDES THAT ARE CONSTRUCTED. FRENCH ALSO SEEM TO BE A BIT SENSITIVE THAT NOISE RULE OSTENSIBLY DEALING WITH "SST'S" APPEARS TO ZERO IN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON CONCORDE.
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3. ABOVE VIEWS, IF REFLECTED IN GOF FINAL POSITION, WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE. IMMEDIATELY UPON ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SST NOISE RULE PROPOSAL, STATE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION CAVAILLE PUBLICLY OBJECTED TO THE LIMITATION OF THE EXEMPTION TO ONLY SIXTEEN CONCORDES (REFTEL). SUCH AN ATTITUDE ON THE GOF'S PART MAY BE UNREALISTIC

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AND ALMOST GRATUITOUS INASMUCH AS NEITHER FRANCE NOR THE UK HAS SHOWN ANY SERIOUSNESS ABOUT PURSUING THE CONCORDE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM BEYOND SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT, EVEN IF BUYERS OR LESSEES WERE FOUND FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE FIVE STILL UNSOLD CONCORDES. (CAVAILLE TOLD THE FRENCH SENATE AT THE END OF LAST WEEK THAT BY 1980 THE PRESENT CONCORDE PROGRAM WILL HAVE COST THE GOF AN ESTIMATED 8.6 BILLION FRS. OR NEARLY $2 BILLION).

4. NOTWITHSTANDING WHATEVER MERIT THE GOF MIGHT SEE IN NONETHELESS PRESSING ITS CASE AGAINST LIMITATION OF THE EXEMPTION IF ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF PRINCIPLE, IT PROBABLY FEELS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE DOMESTICALLY, ESPECIALLY IN THIS PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD, TO OPPOSE ANY PROVISION IN THE SST NOISE RULE THAT MIGHT SEEM TO FOREDOM CHANCES, HOWEVER REMOTE, FOR AN EVENTUAL CONTINUATION OF THE CONCORDE PRODUCTION RUN BEYOND SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT. THE COMMUNISTS IN PARTICULAR HAVE DEMANDED THAT THE PRODUCTION RUN BE CONTINUED. FORCE OUVRIERE, IN A MOTION SUBMITTED TO AND ADOPTED BY THE WORKS COUNCIL AT AIR FRANCE EARLIER THIS WEEK, HAS CRITICIZED THE LIMITATION OF THE EXEMPTION TO SIXTEEN CONCORDES IN THE PROPOSED SST NOISE RULE AS "INADMISSIBLE AND CONDEMNABLE".

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5. WITH THE REVERSAL OF THE SITUATION AT NEW YORK HAVING REMOVED CONCORDE FROM THE FOREFRONT OF OUR IMMEDIATE BILATERAL PREOCCUPATIONS WITH FRANCE, IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IF THE SST NOISE RULE WERE NOW TO BECOME THE CAUSE OF YET MORE RECRIMINATION AND BITTERNESS BETWEEN US. HOPEFULLY THE FRENCH WILL SIMPLY GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF PROTESTING, AS THEY FEEL THEY MUST. AND WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE PERHAPS THEY WON'T WANT TO PROTEST TOO LOUDLY OR TOO WELL, FOR IF THE CONCORDE PROGRAM IS INDEED TO BE ABANDONED UPON COMPLETION OF THE PRESENT PRODUCTION RUN IT MIGHT BE VERY CONVENIENT TO THE GOF TO BE ABLE TO PLACE PART OF THE BLAME ON THE US AND ITS "RESTRICTIVE" SST NOISE RULE THAT WOULD ALLEGEDLY CURB MARKETABILITY OF ANY MORE CONCORDES. HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOISE POLLUTION, SST, CONCORDE, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS33068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770418-0322
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771174/aaaaclet.tel
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 28183
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 640684
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: CONCORDE AND THE PROPOSED SST NOISE RULE
TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d9afa91d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009